

AMENDMENT(S) TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A fiber optic cable, said fiber optic cable comprising:  
a fiber optic cable core, said fiber optic cable core includes at least one optical fiber; and  
a cable jacket, said cable jacket generally surrounds said at least one optical fiber and said cable jacket being formed from a material having a Shore A hardness, measured using ASTM D-2240, of about 95 or less, wherein said cable jacket has an average shrinkage of about 1.0% or less.
2. (original) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, said fiber optic cable core further comprising a separation layer generally surrounding said at least one optical fiber.
3. (original) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, said average shrinkage being measured about 1 hour after a cable jacket shrinkage test conducted at a temperature of 110°C for 2 hours with the cable core removed.
4. (cancelled)
5. (cancelled)
6. (currently amended) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, said fiber optic cable being a portion of an interconnect cable assembly having at least one optical connector, said interconnect cable assembly having an average delta insertion loss of about 0.03 dB or less at a reference wavelength of about 1310 nm during a thermal cycling test that cycles the temperature between a minimum of -40°C and a maximum of 85°C.
7. (currently amended) The fiber optic cable according to claim

1, said fiber optic cable being a portion of an interconnect cable assembly having at least one optical connector, said interconnect cable assembly having an average delta insertion loss of about 0.04 dB or less at a reference wavelength of about 1550 nm during a thermal cycling test that cycles the temperature between a minimum of -40°C and a maximum of 85°C.

8. (currently amended) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, said fiber optic cable being a portion of an interconnect cable assembly having at least one optical connector, said interconnect cable assembly having an average delta insertion loss of about 0.04 dB or less at a reference wavelength of about 1625 nm during a thermal cycling test that cycles the temperature between a minimum of -40°C and a maximum of 85°C.

9. (original) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, said cable jacket being formed from a material having a flexural modulus, measured using ASTM D790, of about 10,000 psi or less.

10. (original) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, said cable jacket being formed from a material having a flexural modulus, measured using ASTM D790, of about 8,500 psi or less.

11. (original) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, said cable jacket being formed from a material having a flexural modulus, measured using ASTM D790, of about 7,500 psi or less.

12. (cancelled)

13. (original) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, said cable jacket being formed from a material having a Shore A hardness, measured using ASTM D-2240, of about 90 or less.

14. (original) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, said cable jacket being formed from a material having a Shore A hardness, measured using ASTM D-2240, of about 85 or less.
15. (original) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, said cable jacket being formed from a thermoplastic elastomer (TPE).
16. (original) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, said cable jacket being formed from a thermoplastic polyurethane (TPU).
17. (original) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, said cable jacket being formed from a polyether type thermoplastic polyurethane (TPU).
18. (original) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, said cable jacket being formed from a partially cross-linked chlorinated polyolefin.
19. (original) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, said cable jacket being formed from a material having an ultimate ASTM D-412 elongation in the range of about 350 percent to about 700 percent.
20. (original) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, said cable jacket being formed from material having an ultimate ASTM D-412 elongation in the range of about 400 percent to about 650 percent.
21. (original) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, said cable jacket having a generally non-circular cross-section.
22. (original) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, said

cable jacket being formed from a material having a melting onset temperature being about 110°C or greater.

23. (currently amended) A fiber optic cable, said fiber optic cable comprising:

a fiber optic cable core, said fiber optic cable core includes at least one optical fiber and a separation layer, said separation layer generally surrounding said at least one optical fiber; and

a cable jacket, said cable jacket generally surrounding said separation layer, wherein said cable jacket is formed from a material having an ultimate ASTM D-412 elongation in the range of about 350 percent to about 700 percent, said cable jacket having an average shrinkage of about 2.0% or less measured about 1 hour after a cable jacket shrinkage test conducted at a temperature of 110°C for 2 hours with the cable core removed.

24. (cancelled)

25. (original) The fiber optic cable according to claim 23, said cable jacket having a shrinkage of about 1.5% or less measured about 1 hour after a cable jacket shrinkage test conducted at a temperature of 110°C for 2 hours with the cable core removed.

26. (currently amended) The fiber optic cable according to claim 23, said fiber optic cable being a portion of an interconnect cable assembly having at least one optical connector, said interconnect cable assembly having an average delta insertion loss of about 0.03 dB or less at a reference wavelength of selected from the group of about 1310 nm, about 1550 nm, and 1625 nm during a thermal cycling test that cycles the temperature between a minimum of -40°C and a maximum of 85°C.

27. (original) The fiber optic cable according to claim 23, said cable jacket being formed from a material having a flexural modulus, measured using ASTM D790, of about 10,000 psi or less.

28. (original) The fiber optic cable according to claim 23, said cable jacket being formed from a material having a flexural modulus, measured using ASTM D790, of about 8,500 psi or less.

29. (original) The fiber optic cable according to claim 23, said cable jacket being formed from a material having a flexural modulus, measured using ASTM D790, of about 7,500 psi or less.

30. (original) The fiber optic cable according to claim 23, said cable jacket being formed from a material having a Shore A hardness, measured using ASTM D-2240, of about 95 or less.

31. (original) The fiber optic cable according to claim 23, said cable jacket being formed from a partially cross-linked chlorinated polyolefin.

32. (original) The fiber optic cable according to claim 23, said cable jacket being formed from a material being selected from the group of a polyether type thermoplastic polyurethane, a partially cross-linked chlorinated polyolefin, a thermoplastic polyurethane (TPU), a thermoplastic elastomer (TPE), a thermoplastic vulcanizates (TPVs), and polyvinylidene fluorides (PVDFs).

33. (original) The fiber optic cable according to claim 23, said cable jacket being formed from a material having a melting onset temperature being about 110°C or greater.

34. (currently amended) A fiber optic cable, said fiber optic cable comprising:

a fiber optic cable core, said fiber optic cable core includes at least one optical fiber and a separation layer, said separation layer generally surrounding said at least one optical fiber; and

a cable jacket, said cable jacket generally surrounding said separation layer, wherein said cable jacket is formed from a material having a flexural modulus, measured using ASTM D790, of about 10,000 psi or less, said cable jacket having an average shrinkage of about 2.0% or less measured about 1 hour after a cable jacket shrinkage test conducted at a temperature of 110°C for 2 hours with the cable core removed.

35. (cancelled)

36. (original) The fiber optic cable according to claim 34, said cable jacket having a shrinkage of about 1.5% or less measured about 1 hour after a cable jacket shrinkage test conducted at a temperature of 110°C for 2 hours with the cable core removed.

37. (original) The fiber optic cable according to claim 34, said fiber optic cable being a portion of an interconnect cable assembly having at least one optical connector, said interconnect cable assembly having an average delta insertion loss of about 0.03 dB or less at a reference wavelength of selected from the group of about 1310 nm, about 1550 nm, and 1625 nm during a thermal cycling test that cycles the temperature between a minimum of -40°C and a maximum of 85°C.

38. (original) The fiber optic cable according to claim 34, said cable jacket being formed from a material having an ultimate ASTM D-412 elongation in the range of about 350 percent to about 700

percent.

39. (original) The fiber optic cable according to claim 34, said cable jacket being formed from a material having a flexural modulus, measured using ASTM D790, of about 8,500 psi or less.

40. (original) The fiber optic cable according to claim 34, said cable jacket being formed from a material having a flexural modulus, measured using ASTM D790, of about 7,500 psi or less.

41. (original) The fiber optic cable according to claim 34, said cable jacket being formed from a material having a Shore A hardness, measured using ASTM D-2240, of about 95 or less.

42. (original) The fiber optic cable according to claim 34, said cable jacket being formed from a partially cross-linked chlorinated polyolefin.

43. (original) The fiber optic cable according to claim 34, said cable jacket being formed from a material being selected from the group of a polyether type thermoplastic polyurethane, a partially cross-linked chlorinated polyolefin, a thermoplastic polyurethane (TPU), a thermoplastic elastomer (TPE), a thermoplastic vulcanizates (TPVs), and polyvinylidene fluorides (PVDFs).

44. (original) The fiber optic cable according to claim 34, said cable jacket being formed from a material having a melting onset temperature being about 110°C or greater.

45-68. (cancelled)

69. (currently amended) A fiber optic cable assembly, ~~said fiber optic cable~~ comprising:

a fiber optic cable core, said fiber optic cable core includes at least one optical fiber and a separation layer, said separation layer generally surrounding said at least one optical fiber; and

a cable jacket, said cable jacket generally surrounding said separation layer, wherein said fiber optic cable is a portion of ~~an interconnect~~ the cable assembly, said ~~interconnect~~ cable assembly having an average delta insertion loss of about 0.03 dB or less at a reference wavelength selected from the group of about 1310 nm, about 1550 nm, and 1625 nm during a thermal cycling test that cycles the temperature between a minimum of -40°C and a maximum of 85°C; and

at least one optical connector, said at least one optical connector being attached to said at least one optical fiber.

70. (currently amended) The fiber optic cable assembly according to claim 69, said cable jacket having an average shrinkage of about 2.0% or less measured about 1 hour after a cable jacket shrinkage test conducted at a temperature of 110°C for 2 hours with the cable core removed.

71. (currently amended) The fiber optic cable assembly according to claim 69, said cable jacket having an average shrinkage of about 1.5% or less measured about 1 hour after a cable jacket shrinkage test conducted at a temperature of 110°C for 2 hours with the cable core removed.

72. (currently amended) The fiber optic cable assembly according to claim 69, said cable jacket being formed from a material

having a flexural modulus, measured using ASTM D790, of about 10,000 psi or less.

73. (currently amended) The fiber optic cable assembly according to claim 69, said cable jacket being formed from a material having a Shore A hardness, measured using ASTM D-2240, of about 95 or less.

74. (currently amended) The fiber optic cable assembly according to claim 69, said cable jacket being formed from a thermoplastic elastomer (TPE).

75. (currently amended) The fiber optic cable assembly according to claim 69, said cable jacket being formed from a thermoplastic polyurethane (TPU).

76. (currently amended) The fiber optic cable assembly according to claim 69, said cable jacket being formed from a polyether type thermoplastic polyurethane (TPU).

77. (currently amended) The fiber optic cable assembly according to claim 69, said cable jacket being formed from a partially cross-linked chlorinated polyolefin.

78. (currently amended) The fiber optic cable assembly according to claim 69, said cable jacket being formed from a material having an ultimate elongation, measured using ASTM D-412, being in the range of about 350 percent to about 700 percent.

79. (currently amended) The fiber optic cable assembly according to claim 69, said cable jacket being formed from a material having a melting onset temperature being about 110°C or greater.

80. (currently amended) The fiber optic cable assembly according to claim 69, said cable jacket being formed from a material being selected from the group of a polyether type thermoplastic polyurethane, a partially cross-linked chlorinated polyolefin, a thermoplastic polyurethane (TPU), a thermoplastic elastomer (TPE), a thermoplastic vulcanizates (TPVs), and polyvinylidene fluorides (PVDFs).

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